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19 July 1975

OLC 75-1673

Honorable John O. Marsh  
Counsellor to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

STAT

As  mentioned to you the other day, we are becoming increasingly concerned over the number of House committees which, under various assertions of jurisdiction, are pressing us for information and are demanding various documents having to do with matters currently under investigation by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Operations and the Department of Justice and which, of course, will be looked into by the newly reconstituted House Select Committee on Intelligence. (I am enclosing copies of correspondence we have received from the various House committees.)

As I believe you know, I am attempting to cooperate to the fullest extent possible with our regular oversight Subcommittees and with the Select Committees of the Congress in these matters. A fractionalization of these inquiries, however, among a number of congressional committees will proliferate much sensitive information under conditions which will preclude any reasonable security control.

I have made initial contact with Chairman Pike, of the new House Select Committee and hope to have further discussions with him at an early date at which time I will express the hope that he will be able to assert the jurisdiction of the Select Committee in these areas and convince his colleagues that they should defer other inquiries at least



until the Select Committee has completed its work and filed a report. This would not only serve to minimize the dissemination of sensitive intelligence information, but would also eliminate duplicative efforts within the Congress and conserve the time of Executive Branch personnel who are necessarily the subjects of these inquiries.

I would appreciate whatever efforts the President and you feel appropriate with the leadership of the Congress and with the Chairmen of the Committees concerned in order to assure a thorough, yet responsible, approach to this situation on the part of the Congress.

STAT  will continue to keep you posted on this problem and I would appreciate your letting him know of any efforts that you feel can be exerted in this direction from the White House.

Sincerely,

  
W. E. Colby  
Director

Enclosures

cc:  
General Scowcroft  
Mr. Rod Hills

Distribution:  
Original - Addressee  
1 - General Scowcroft  
1 - Mr. Hills  
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OLC/GLC:jmd (19 July 1975)